IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 1, and ADD new claim 16 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrocorrosion preventive rolling bearing assembly, comprising:

an inner raceway member;

an outer raceway member;

at least one circumferential row of a plurality of rolling elements rollingly interposed between respective raceway grooves of the inner and outer raceway members;

an electrically insulating layer formed on at least one of the inner ~~and~~ or outer raceway members so as to cover a peripheral surface and opposite annular end faces of such at least one of the inner and outer raceway members, the peripheral surface of such at least one of the inner and outer raceway members being engageable with either a housing or a shaft; and

a tool reference plane defined in at least one of opposite sides of the raceway groove of the raceway member, the tool reference plane being utilizable for a process of finishing the electrically insulating layer or for a thickness control of the insulating layer,

wherein ~~an inner peripheral surface of the outer raceway member or an outer peripheral surface of the inner raceway member is of a cylindrical shape, excluding a portion of the inner peripheral surface of the outer raceway or the outer peripheral surface of the inner raceway where the raceway groove is positioned,~~

on a first one of the opposite annular end faces, the tool reference plane is defined by a ~~bare surface area in~~first step recessed from the first annular end face of the raceway member such that a peripheral surface of the first step is located a first radial distance from an inner peripheral surface of the outer raceway member or an outer peripheral surface of the inner raceway, ~~which is~~the first step being ~~left~~ uncovered by the insulating layer and positioned between the first annular end face and the inner peripheral surface of the outer raceway member or the outer peripheral surface of the inner raceway member, and

on the remaining opposite annular end face, there is defined either

a second step recessed from the remaining annular end face of the raceway member, such that a peripheral surface of the second step is located the first radial distance from the inner peripheral surface of the outer raceway member or the outer peripheral surface of the inner raceway, the second step being uncovered by the insulating layer and positioned on a peripheral edge corresponding to a position of the tool reference plane on the first annular end face, or

a chamfered portion uncovered by the insulating layer and positioned on a peripheral edge corresponding to a position of the tool reference plane on the first annular end face, such that an intersection between the chamfered portion and the remaining annular end face is located the first radial distance from the inner peripheral surface of the outer raceway member or the outer peripheral surface of the inner raceway.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The electrocorrosion preventive rolling bearing assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the tool reference plane is a surface area formed by means of a hardened steel cutting process or a grinding process.

5-15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) An electrocorrosion preventive rolling bearing assembly, comprising:

an inner raceway member;

an outer raceway member;

at least one circumferential row of a plurality of rolling elements rollingly interposed between respective raceway grooves of the inner and outer raceway members;

an electrically insulating layer formed on the outer raceway member to cover an outer peripheral surface and opposite annular end faces of the outer raceway member;

wherein, positioned between one of the opposite annular end faces and an inner peripheral surface of the outer raceway member and uncovered by the insulating layer, a first step is recessed from the first annular end face such that a peripheral surface of the first step is located a first radial distance from the inner peripheral surface, and

on the remaining opposite annular end face, there is defined either

a second step, recessed from the remaining annular end face such that a peripheral surface of the second step is located the first radial distance from the inner peripheral surface, uncovered by the insulating layer, and positioned between the remaining opposite annular end face and the inner peripheral surface, or

a chamfered portion uncovered by the insulating layer and positioned between the remaining opposite annular end face and the inner peripheral surface, such that an intersection between the chamfered portion and the remaining annular end face is located the first radial distance from the inner peripheral surface.